

habits and their impact on our economy's ability to create good jobs gives every American an important stake in putting our fiscal house in order.

To achieve this goal, every Federal program and expenditure, except Social Security, is being evaluated in a bottom-up and top-down review. During the next few months Congress will be considering how to best reduce the size of the Federal Government and implement fiscal policies that will create a strong economy and good jobs. There are hundreds of proposals that are under consideration. Some are sound, others less so. Some are fair, others are not.

One of the best fiscal policies for a prosperous future is a balanced budget. A balanced budget constitutional amendment requires the Federal Government to spend \$1.1 trillion less than it is currently projected to spend over the next 7 years, and yet total Federal spending will still increase every year. In the year 2002—if we reach balance—the Federal Government will expend \$1.9 trillion; this year the Federal Government will expend \$1.5 trillion.

Part of the task is to establish the appropriate metes and bounds of the Federal Government. We need to determine how and on what programs the Government in Washington should be spending our taxpayers' money. There will be a philosophical discussion about the role of the Federal Government in our daily lives. Important questions will be answered. How can taxpayer dollars best and most efficiently be spent? How can we make programs work better and save money? Are there better ways to provide Government services? Are there lessons Congress could learn from State and local governments? Could the private sector do a better job in providing those services that are not quintessential government functions?

There is a feeling that the Government in Washington has been trying to micromanage everyone's lives. And while the Federal Government has been attempting to run everyone else's business, there is a sense that no one has been adequately managing the Government in Washington. Reversing this trend is part of putting our fiscal house in order by developing this year's budget plan.

It would be more consistent with our Founding Fathers' vision of a limited Federal Government with enumerated powers if the Federal Government did less.

Our country would be a better country if some services were provided by the State and local governments instead of the Federal Government. I believe the Federal Government should enter into a new partnership with the States so that the Federal Government imposes fewer strings, fewer rules, and fewer regulations. In addition to achieving more sensible Government, this new Federal-State and local government partnership could provide the same level of service with fewer taxpayers' dollars. If the strings attached

to Federal funding were cut, fewer Federal dollars would be needed to do the same job and fewer taxes being paid by hard working families. This is a win-win solution.

In New Mexico, the Governor and I are eager to forge this new partnership so that government, at all levels, sets the right priorities.

We already know what some of the priorities are; improving crime prevention, detection, and prosecution; preserving the national laboratories; and, making sure New Mexico's military bases maximize their contribution to our national defense.

If the future means lower taxes and less Washington-dictated Government, this evaluation needs to take place. This is what will be going on in the Senate Budget Committee.

On the first day of the new Congress, the Senate cut the size of congressional committee budgets by 15 percent. We are going to lead by example. We are also going to proceed with caution and compassion. I want you to know that throughout this process, it is my intention for everyone to be treated fairly. In making the Federal Government more responsive to its citizens, we must keep in mind the neediest among us. We are a great nation founded on the notion of equal opportunity. Unfortunately, too many of our programs create unintended dependency traps. Part of this Congress' work program is to provide more intelligent programs that provide choices and restore opportunity.

I hope the budget we produce will reflect the priorities of the American people, forge a new partnership with the States, meet the requirements of the balanced budget constitutional amendment, and most important, put into law responsible fiscal policies that will let the economy create good paying jobs and a brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

#### IS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? YOU BE THE JUDGE OF THAT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the incredibly enormous Federal debt is a lot like television's well-known energizer bunny—it keeps going and going—at the expense, of course, of the American taxpayer.

A lot of politicians talk a good game, when they are back home, about bringing Federal deficits and the Federal debt under control. But so many of these same politicians regularly voted in support of bloated spending bills during the 103d Congress—which perhaps is a primary factor in the new configuration of U.S. Senators.

This is a rather distressing fact as the 104th Congress gets down to business. As of Friday, January 27, 1995, the Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,805,320,933,038.83 or \$18,241.08 per person.

Mr. President, it is important that all of us monitor, closely and constantly the incredible cost of merely paying the interest on this debt. Last

year, the interest on the Federal debt totaled \$190 billion.

Mr. President, my hope is that the 104th Congress can bring under control the outrageous spending that created this outrageous debt. If the party now controlling both Houses of Congress, as a result of the November elections last year, does not do a better job of getting a handle on this enormous debt, the American people are not likely to overlook it in 1996.

#### THE LATE LORNA SIMPSON

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, the Senate is a place of great camaraderie and congeniality, and over the past four decades, I have been fortunate to have made a number of very good friends here. Regrettably, I rise today to memorialize one of them, Mrs. Lorna Simpson.

Lorna is known to all of us as the mother of our colleague, Senator AL SIMPSON, the dedicated and gregarious senior Senator from Wyoming. While most Members probably had the opportunity to meet this kind and warm woman, few are fortunate to have known her as well as I.

I first came to know Lorna in 1962 when her husband was elected to the U.S. Senate and he moved into an office near mine. The Simpsons quickly became my close friends and I very much enjoyed spending time with Al and Lorna.

While Lorna was a consummate entertainer, she was a woman who was civically active and took a strong role in supporting her husband's business enterprises. Every community in which the Simpsons lived benefited from the efforts of Lorna as she contributed her time and efforts to numerous causes including the Red Cross and programs that restored various historic sites. During World War II, Lorna contributed to the war effort by chairing Cody Wyoming's black and scrap metal committees and even served as the acting editor of the local paper. Among her many other activities in the subsequent years, she assisted her husband in negotiations with the Israeli Government concerning gas and oil exploration in that country, and later she served as the representative of the women of the United States to the Organization of American States.

Mr. President, I know everyone will agree with me that Lorna Simpson was a unique woman and a lady in every respect. She possessed high ideals, a lovely character, a friendly personality and all the good qualities that signify the perfect lady. She was a woman who was devoted to her husband and family and she added much to the lives of those whom she touched. Senator AL SIMPSON and his lovely wife Ann have my deepest sympathies and they, along with AL's brother Peter and the entire Simpson family, are in my thoughts and prayers.